

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for customizing a computer system comprising:
 - 5 a configuration mechanism for storing customization information for the computer system, wherein when the configuration mechanism is coupled to the computer system, the computer system is configured to retrieve during a first system boot the customization information in the configuration mechanism to customize the computer system.
 - 10 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the configuration mechanism is a PCI adapter that is configured to plug into the computer system.
 - 15 3. The system of claim 2 wherein the configuration mechanism is manually programmed with the customization information at a distribution site.
 4. The system of claim 2 wherein the configuration mechanism includes at least one communication port.
 - 20 5. The system of claim 4 wherein the customization information is download from a server to the configuration mechanism via the at least one communication port.
 6. The system of claim 2, wherein the computer system and the configuration mechanism are shipped separately but in the same shipment to a customer site prior to coupling the configuration mechanism to the computer system.